

SECRETINTELLIGENCE REPORT
London

COUNTRY: Austria/Palestine

DATE:

SUBJECT: Arthur PIER @ BEN-ZWI

INFO: 1921-1947

DIST: March 12, 1947

ORIGIN: London

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Evaluation of Source: See below

Evaluation of Contents:

SOURCE: M.I. 5

XX-12643.

1. References: JZX-8004; LVX-283 (not sent to London), XL-12233.

2. We have now had the following additional information on the above-named subject:

"We have received a further report about this man from the Intelligence Organisation in Austria.

"They state that they have been approached by U.S.F.A. to ascertain whether they have any objection to this man being accredited as a correspondent for the Overseas News Agency, New York.

"In a C.I.C. inter-departmental document the following information is recorded:

"PIER Arthur.

Birth: 15 Feb. 21; Vienna IX, Sechschimmelgasse 22.

Father: PIENNIKARZ Nathan, business man.

Mother: PIENNIKARZ (WITZNITZER) Bertha

Religion: Jewish

Citizenship: Austrian

Marital Status: Married

"PIER lived with his parents in Vienna until 1938. In 1927 he entered elementary school, and in 1931 he entered the Jewish Realgymnasium, Vienna XX, which he left in 1938 after the Anschluss, one year before his graduation.

"In the course of an interview he stated that he left Austria in 1938 in order to immigrate to Palestine. He accepted a job as secretary to an agricultural settlement in Hadera, Palestine, which position he retained until August 1944.

"He then was asked by the Jewish Agency in Haifa, Palestine, to act as ~~an~~ propagator of refugees coming from European countries. He remained in this job until the cessation of hostilities.

"In September 1945 PIER was appointed as correspondent for various Palestine newspapers and news agencies, including PAL-COR in London, England, and HATZOFER in Tel Aviv, Palestine.

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Letter drafted for Br. desk
to send.

wrong ref. apparently

"In November 1945 he returned to Vienna via Italy and was an accredited news-correspondent of the British Public Relation Office in Vienna, which position he holds at present.

"In October 1946, PIER submitted an application to be accredited as correspondent for the Overseas News Agency in Austria.

"An interview with Mr. Josef SILBER, Chief of the American Joint Distribution Committee, who has known PIER since January 1946, substantiated PIER's statements. It appears that PIER is an active Palestine Zionist, and intends to make his permanent residence there. Mr. SILBER as well as Mr. DANIELS of the American Joint Distribution Committee, stated definitely that he has no Communist leanings.

"Mr. David MANN of USACA Public Safety, when questioned about PIER's background, stated that he has known him for approximately five months. He recommended him as an intelligent and capable person.

"PIER can best be described as a Palestine Zionist, who is interested in the restitution of Palestine to his people. Although technically still an Austrian, he identifies himself as a Jewish nationalist and expects to become a citizen of Palestine shortly.

"When originating queries as to the Intelligence Organization's objections, C.I.C. stated that PIER was known to behead of an organization known as BRICHA (stated by them to mean 'flight').

"He also was said to receive assistance from:

- a) GAULAN, Dr. Judah, Head of Jewish Agency in Linz.
- b) WAAD-HA-ALIJAH, council HQ in Linz for illegal immigration of Polish Jews.

"It is suggested that WAAD-HA-ALIJAH is identical with VAAD HAHAZAALA and VAAD ALIJAH."

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